

Applicant	:	Miller et al.
Appl. No.	:	10/595602
Examiner	:	Brian T Gedeon
Docket No.	:	13634.4009

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.—2. (Cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least ~~some~~ a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre.

4. (currently amended) ~~The wrap as claimed in claim 4 claim 3, wherein the in combination with a blood vessel deformer, said wrap is adapted for securing a vessel deformer adjacent the vessel, by being adapted to sandwiching the deformer between the vessel and the wrap.~~

5. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 4, wherein the vessel deformer is part of an implantable counter-pulsation heart assist device.

6. (currently amended) ~~The wrap as claimed in claim 5, wherein the vessel deformer~~ is an inflatable balloon or chamber.

7. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 6, wherein the wrap is adapted to secure the inflatable balloon or chamber against an aorta.

8. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 7, wherein the wrap is adapted to secure the inflatable balloon or chamber against an ascending aorta.

9. (currently amended) ~~The wrap as claimed in claim 3 claim 4,~~ wherein the wrap is of woven or knitted construction, or a combination of those constructions.

10. (currently amended) ~~The wrap as claimed in claim 9, wherein the wrap is made of polyester or PET (polyethylene terephthalate).~~

11. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap has slits along some of its sides.

12. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 11, wherein the wrap has a series of spaced ~~apart~~ apart slits that are normal to the direction of the sides.

13. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap has warp fibres at, near, or along its sides that are more elastic than the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre.

14. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 13, wherein the warp fibres, near or along its sides are crimped and the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre are un-crimped or less crimped.

15. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap includes a strip of substantially centrally placed material, the strip having a tensile strength greater than that of the rest of the wrap.

16. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 15, wherein the two sides of the wrap ~~can be of~~ are similar, or differing, elasticity or stretchability to each other.

17. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap is made from woven fabric cut on the bias and is more elastic at or near its sides.

18. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap is thinner at, near, or along its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre.

19. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap is about six times longer than it is wide.

20. (currently amended)The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap has a slimmed region at or near its longitudinal midpoint.

21. (currently amended) The wrap as claimed in claim 20, wherein the wrap includes one or more longitudinal slits near its ~~thinned~~ slimmed region to allow the wrap to conform radially more closely with the inner curve of the aorta.

22. (currently amended) The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap is shaped to allow good conformance with the curved aorta.

23. (currently amended) The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap also includes an opening for a fluid tube.

24. (currently amended) The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap is coated with a material to reduce its surface area and to limit tissue ingrowth.

25. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 24, wherein the wrap is coated on one or both sides with either silicone or polyurethane or a co-polymer of both silicone and polyurethane.

26. (currently amended) The wrap as claimed in claim 3 ~~claim 4~~, wherein the wrap has an open weave or mesh structure.

27. (New) The wrap of claim 10, wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

28. (New) The wrap of claim 4, in combination with an implantable counter-pulsation heart assist device comprising a vessel deformer.

29. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides, wherein the wrap is more elastic or stretchable at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, to provide strain relief from wrapped to unwrapped aorta, wherein the wrap has slits along a portion of its sides.

30. (New) The wrap as claimed in claim 29, wherein the wrap has a series of spaced apart slits that are normal to the direction of the sides.

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31. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides, wherein the wrap is more elastic or stretchable at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, to provide strain relief from wrapped to unwrapped aorta, wherein the wrap has warp fibres at, near, or along its sides that are more elastic than the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre.

32. (New) The wrap as claimed in claim 31, wherein the warp fibres, near or along its sides are crimped and the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre are un-crimped or less crimped.